

MEDIA RELEASE



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THE BOOKMOBILE TURNS 60

Norfolk Public Library's Bookmobile Marks 60 Years with a Major Announcement

NORFOLK, VA – In 1956, Norfolk Public Library (NPL) launched its first bookmobile, serving as the library's mobile branch and extending services into the community to meet the diverse needs of Norfolk's neighborhoods. On Monday, July 18, 2016, NPL will host a 60th anniversary celebration of the bookmobile program. During the anniversary celebration, plans for the bookmobile will be announced.

Over the course of 60 years, NPL has had four different bookmobiles. The current bookmobile has operated as a successful mobile branch since its re-launch in 1999. The bookmobile staff provides services to:

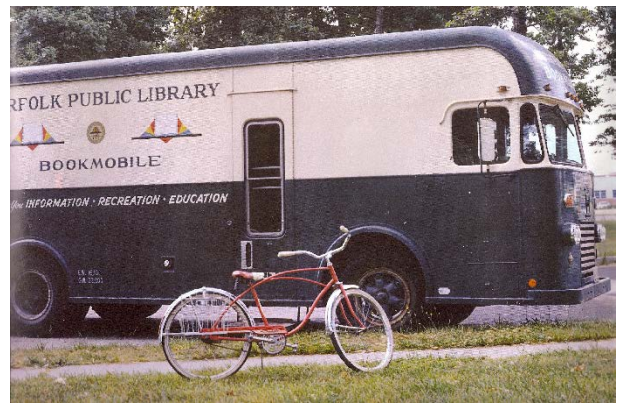
- Adult care facilities
- Neighborhoods where a library is not easily accessible
- Preschools and daycares
- Recreation centers
- Housing communities

In fiscal year 2015, the bookmobile circulated 15,572 books and materials, about the same rate as a small branch library. It provides services to the library's underserved: the economically disadvantaged, seniors, disabled persons and others who cannot easily access an established branch and do not have computers or other personal communication devices that allow them to take advantage of e-resources. The bookmobile averages twenty stops a week, four days a week.

Outreach is a continued priority for NPL and the bookmobile provides access to information and life-long learning resources to all of Norfolk's citizens.

The current bookmobile was purchased in 1998 and has suffered multiple repairs and maintenance over the years. The bookmobile has been taken off the road consistently in the summer months due to overheating and a malfunctioning generator that is not able to properly cool the unit and power the vehicle.

During the anniversary celebration on July 18, future plans of the bookmobile will be announced.



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About Norfolk Public Library:

The Norfolk Public Library offers access to information, books, programs, and online resources to meet the needs of our diverse community for life-long learning. The library system consists of one main library, ten branch libraries, one anchor branch library, and a Bookmobile. All programs are FREE of charge. Visit www.norfolkpubliclibrary.org or call us at (757) 664-READ for more information. *NPL- Creating a City of Readers.*